100 years of women in public service – past, present and future

Description

Earlier this year a Suffrage Flag began travelling around the UK to government departments and agencies to increase national awareness and mark the 100 years since women got the right to vote. We were delighted to host the flag at our head office in Exeter today.

We received the flag yesterday afternoon from the Environment Agency and it spent the night in the Flood Forecasting Centre, a partnership between our two organisations. Our Suffrage Flag event then started in earnest this morning, with speeches by our Director of IT, Charlie Ewen, and Strategic Relationship Manager Rebecca Hemingway.

The flag was raised by weather balloon and marked the start of our Equali-tea, a family-friendly event for our staff and their guests, with opportunities to learn about and discuss women's suffrage, inspirational women and the importance of diversity.

Met Office staff at front-line stations also held Equali-teas to join in with the celebrations. Attendees had a go at making their own sashes, rosettes and banners highlighting challenges for democracy and hopes for inclusivity and diversity (and some demands for more cake).

The event ended as we handed the flag on to Exeter City Council. In a look to the future and as a reminder of the ongoing importance of ensuring equality and diversity, we invited local children to conduct the handover.

Take a look at our photo gallery below to see some of the events of the past couple of days.

Met Office interim Chief Executive, Nick Jobling, receives the flag from Environment Agency staff including Chair Emma Howard Boyd.

Met Office Director of IT, Charlie Ewen, launches our Suffrage Flag event.

Accuracy

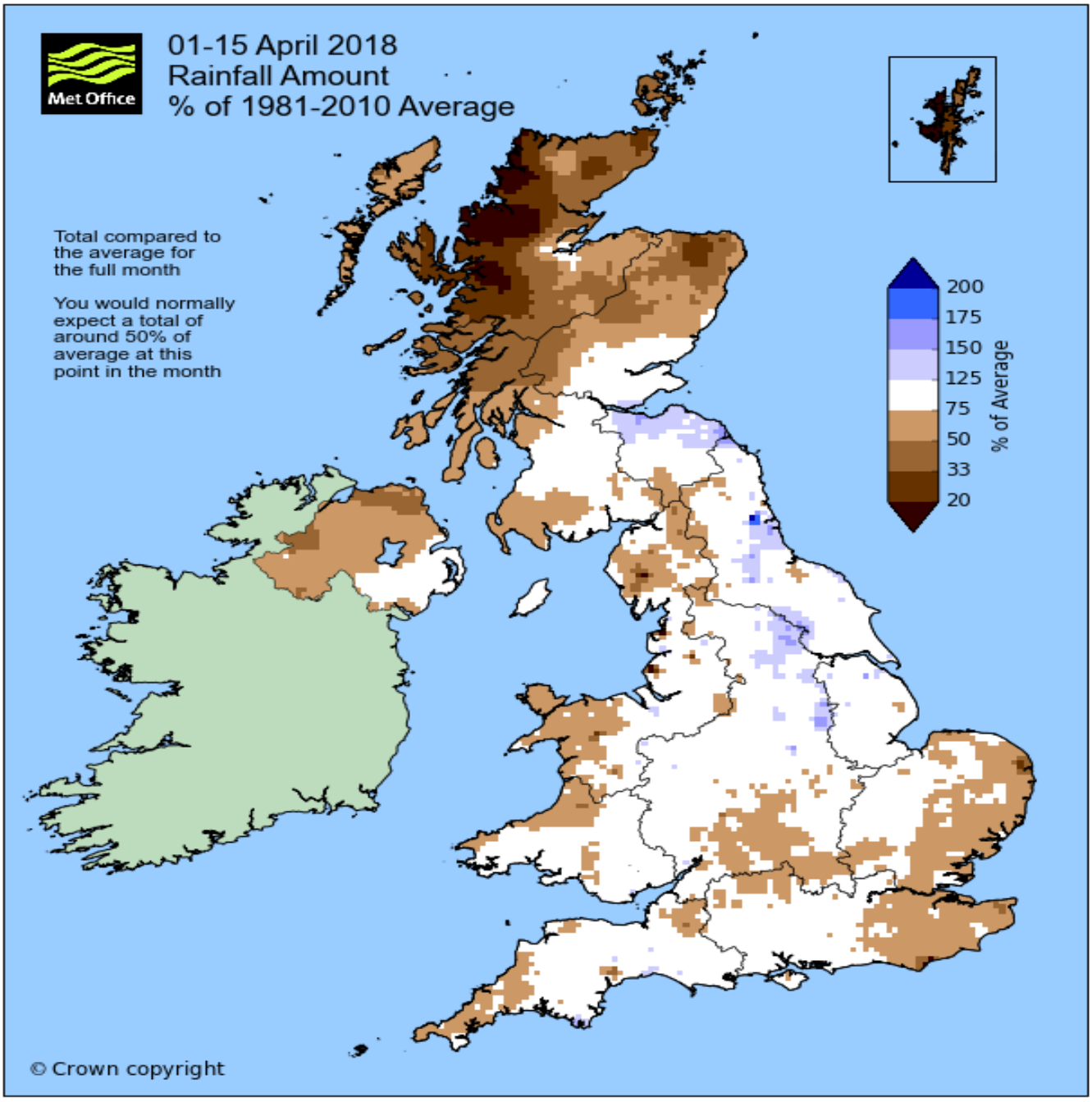
Date Created
April 2018

Scotland highlights weather contrasts during the first half of April

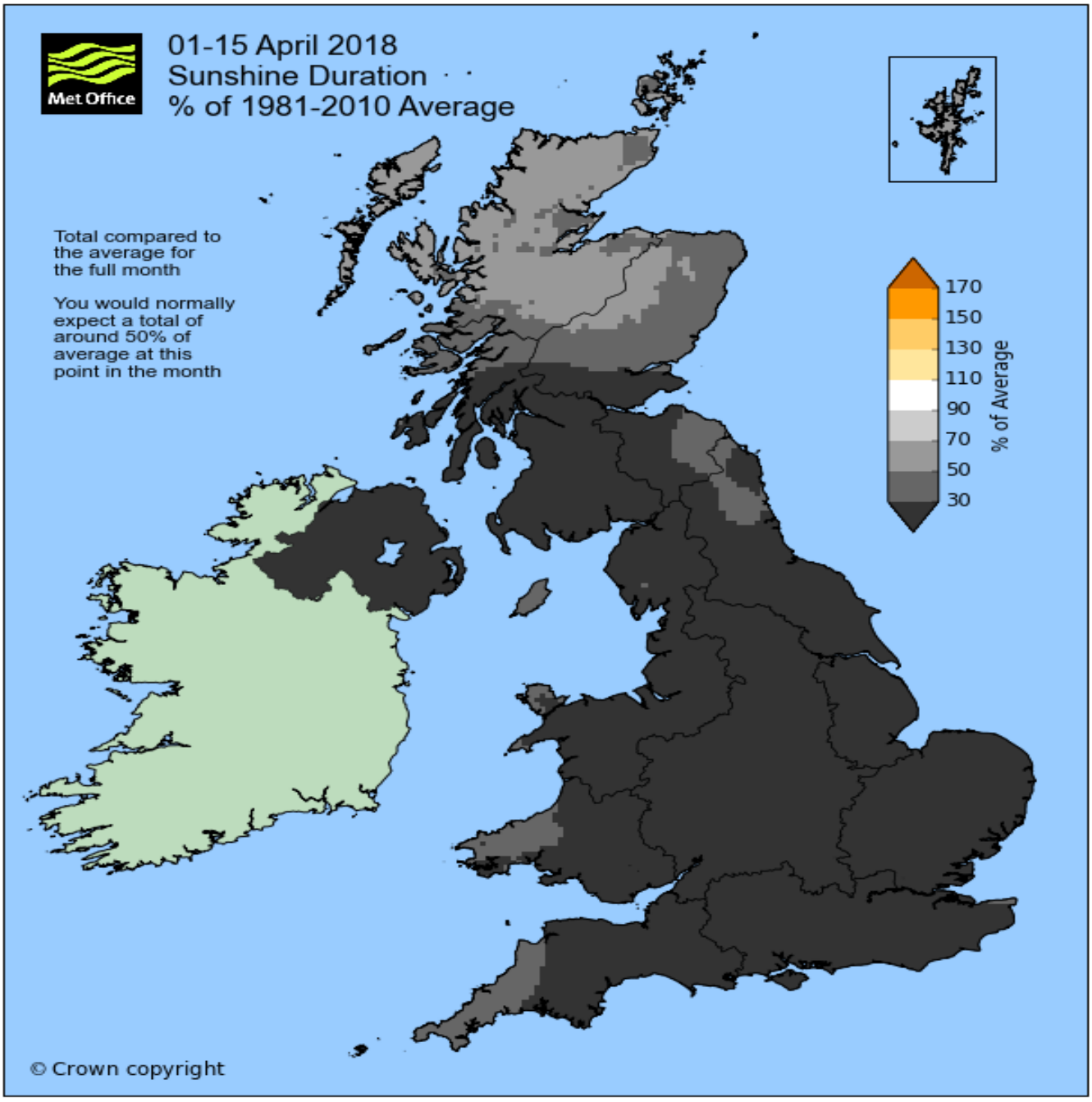
Description

So far April’s weather is highlighting a month of contrasts, and perhaps nowhere is this contrast more apparent than in Scotland.

Between 1-15 April, parts of Scotland have seen both the most and least rainfall of any station in the UK, when compared with the long-term average (1981-2010).



The Edinburgh Botanic Gardens have so far received 63.4mm, which is equivalent to more than one and a half times the full month average for April (156%). Meanwhile, Loch Glascarnoch – in the north-west Highlands – has only received 12mm of rainfall, making it the driest location in the UK for the first half of April. This is equivalent to only 13% of the site's monthly total rainfall. Elsewhere most of England and Wales have had a relatively wet start to April with some areas in the north east already at or above the average full month rainfall for April.



Much of the UK has had a dull start to April with hours of bright sunshine rather low for the time of year. The sunniest places have actually been in the far north and west of Scotland with Stornoway Airport observations showing that the site received 83 hours of sunshine in the first half of April, making it the sunniest place in the UK. In contrast, the weather station at Glasgow Bishopton has only received 20 hours: well below average and making it the dullest place in the UK so far this month.

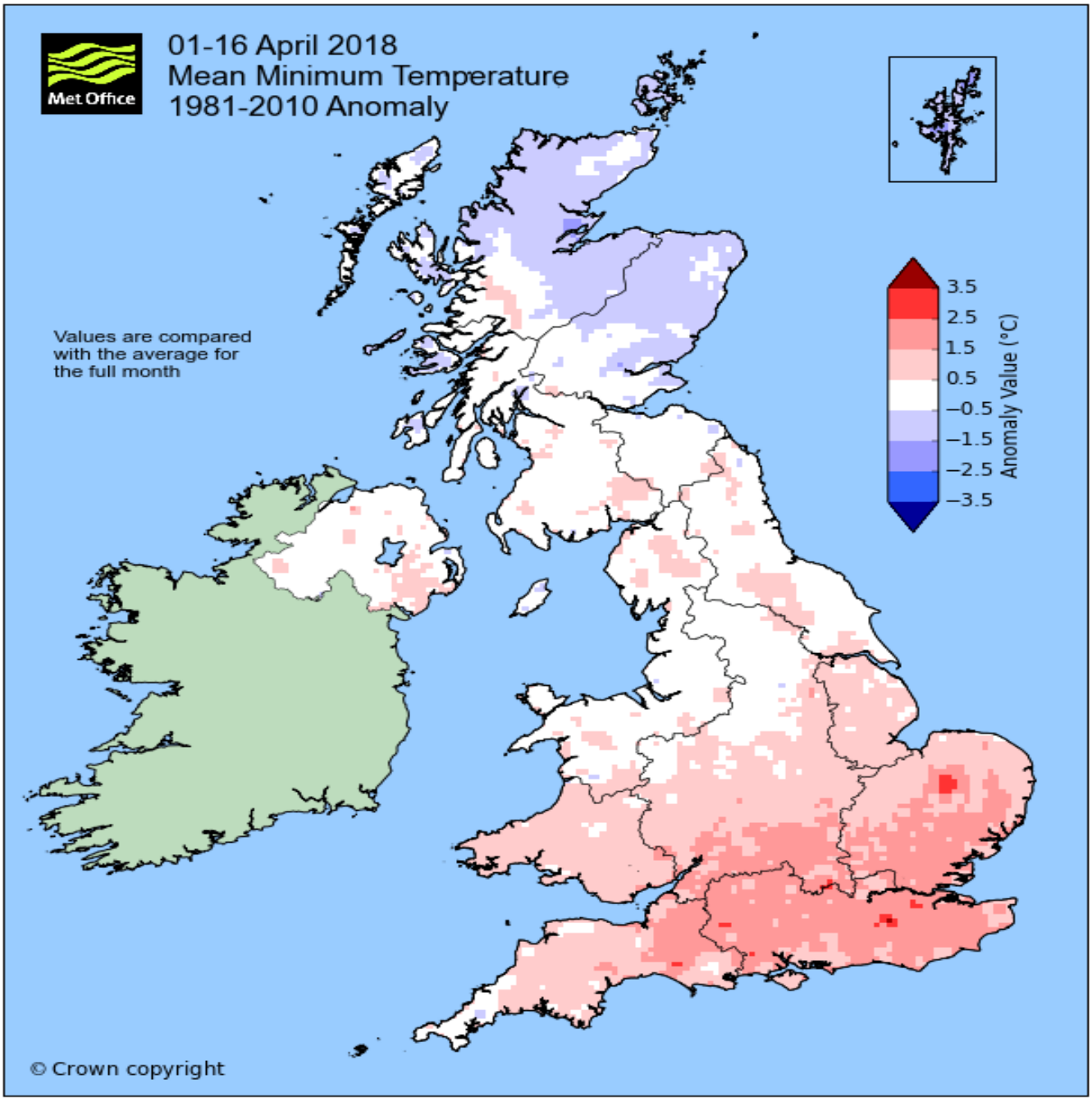
Temperatures have generally been below average for April during the day, but night-time minima have been above average for most of southern England and Wales. Dr Mark McCarthy is the head of the Met Office's National Climate Information Centre. He explains: "When you drill down in to the detail of the temperature records, you can see that cloudy and wet conditions have exerted a strong influence

on the month’s climate records. Helping to supress daytime maximum temperatures, while the same cloud over night has an insulating effect, helping to keep night-time temperatures elevated.”

Provisional climate statistics for the first half of April.

	Maximum Temperature		**Minimum Temperature**		**Mean Temperature**	
	Act °C	Anom	Act °C	Anom	Act °C	Anom
UK	10.2	-1.3	3.9	0.5	6.9	-0.5
England	11.3	-1.2	4.9	1	8	-0.2
Wales	10.9	-0.7	4.3	0.6	7.5	-0.1
Scotland	8.2	-1.5	2.1	-0.3	5	-1
N Ireland	9.6	-1.9	3.9	0.2	6.6	-1

	Precipitation		**Sunshine**	
	Act mm	Anom %	Act hours	Anom %
UK	52	72	41.8	28
England	51.7	88	35.9	23
Wales	71	80	40.7	26
Scotland	48.2	53	53.4	40
N Ireland	47.7	64	33.1	23


Met Office
01-16 April 2018
Mean Minimum Temperature
1981-2010 Anomaly
Values are compared with the average for the full month
3.5
2.5
1.5
0.5
−0.5
−1.5
−2.5
−3.5
Anomaly Value (°C)
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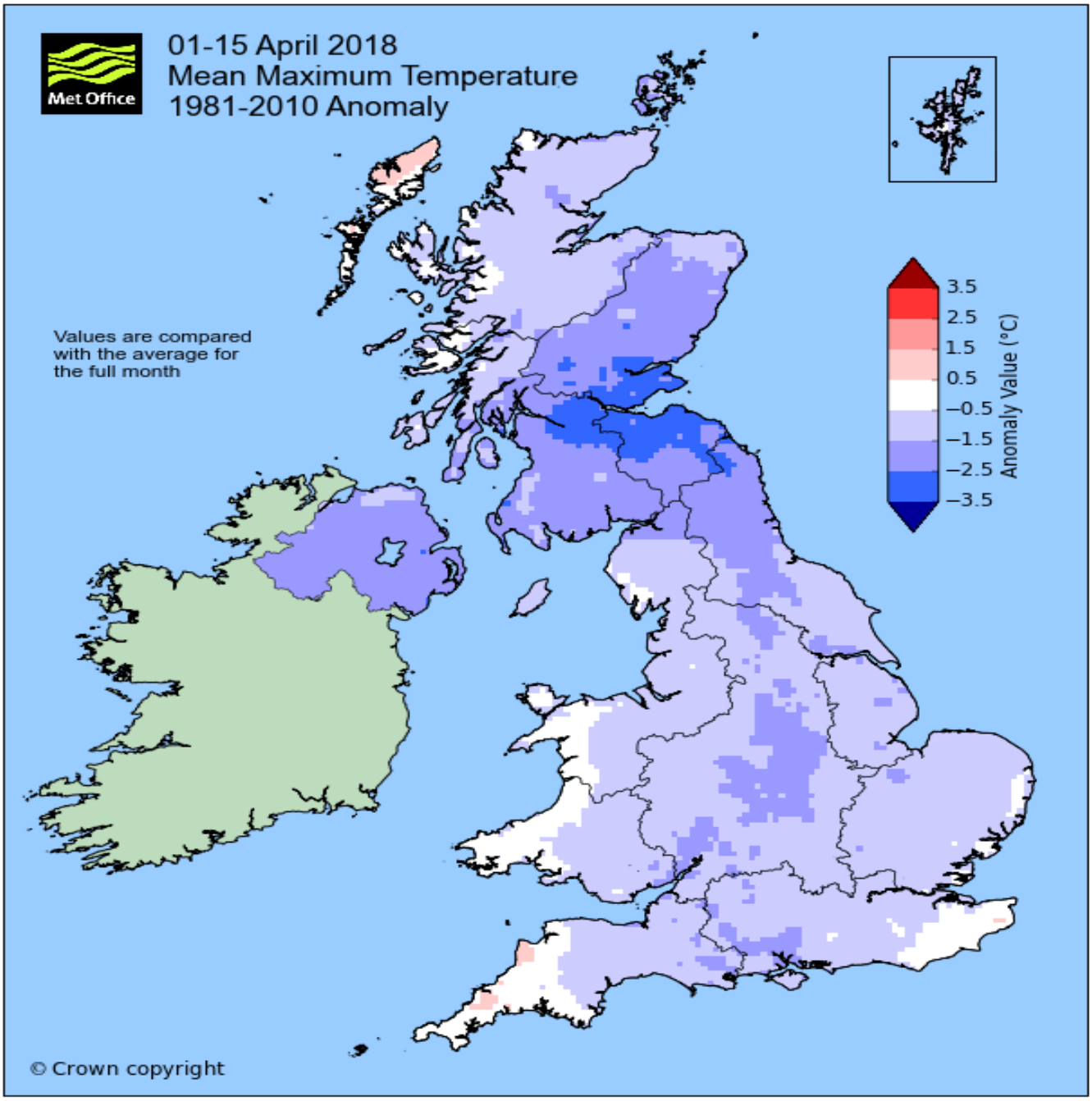

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